## Abstract

The invention relates to a device for object recognition

for an automotive passenger protection system, comprising a signal source (10), adapted to generate at least one electromagnetic wave (12), and a receiver (14) for the at least one electromagnetic wave (18) reflected by an obstacle (16). The inventive device is provided with an evaluation unit (20) that is adapted to evaluate the polarization of the at least one electromagnetic wave (18) reflected by the obstacle (16) and received by the receiver (14) and to generate at least one evaluation signal (22).

The inventive device and method allow for obtaining additional information on the obstacle such as its surface structure and using the same for the automotive passenger protection system.